

# Ministerial Foreword

*I am fortunate that England's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are part of my Ministerial responsibilities. Whether it be rolling hills, sweeping coastline or a tranquil village, spending time in an AONB can stir the heart and lift the spirit.*



This is a pivotal moment for all AONBs. The Government has set its ambition in the 25 Year Environment Plan which states clearly the importance of natural beauty as part of our green future, while AONBs retain the highest status of protection for landscape through national planning policy. Leaving the EU brings with it an opportunity to develop a better system for supporting our farmers and land managers, who play such a vital role as stewards of the landscape. And the Review of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty led by Julian Glover – the first of its kind for generations – will make recommendations to make sure our designated landscapes can flourish in the years ahead.

In my visits to AONBs around the country, I have been struck by the passion of many people – farmers, volunteers, and hard-working staff – for the beautiful places they live and work. In this spirit I am delighted to welcome publication of this Statutory Management Plan for Cranborne Chase AONB. It is significant that this plan will be delivered in partnership by those who value Cranborne Chase AONB. I would like to thank all those involved in preparation of this document, and wish you the best of success in bringing it to fruition.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lord Gardiner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Lord Gardiner**, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity.



# Chairman's Foreword

*The Government's publication in 2018 of a 25 Year Plan for the Environment was followed by the Review of Protected Landscapes, which was principally addressed to National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. These two policy initiatives show reassuring commitment from Government to the conservation of our environmental heritage at a time of significant change.*



The combined area of landscape covered by AONBs and National Parks, gives these organisations a critical voice in the implementation of Government policy. Their hearts and minds approach should play a significant part in the delivery of the Government statement that, “*we must be the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we found it*”.

The upcoming relocation of the offices of the Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, from Wimborne to Rushmore, makes for an auspicious start to the term of the new Management Plan. What more appropriate location, as a place of administration, study and research, than to be located at the heart of the area synonymous with the historic Pitt Rivers legacy, surrounded by some of this country's most beautiful landscape and blessed with outstandingly dark skies.

For the AONB, recognition of the interdependence between agriculture and the environment is a vital tenet in the drive for sustainability and flourishing biodiversity, for the benefit of future generations. The Cranborne Chase AONB can be proud of the successful partnership schemes that it continues to foster and grow with the farmer and landowner community.

With education being central to understanding the vital nature and fragility of ecosystems, there has never been a more important time to support the Government's new emphasis on the environment. During my term as Chairman I am committed to promoting the creation of a ‘Living Landscape Centre’ in the heart of Cranborne Chase, with an observatory at its core. This plan already has the principle approval of the Partnership Board, with the aim of providing a multi-functional centre for academic and vocational study for children of all ages, students, local residents, farmers, landowners and businesses alike.

I'd like to express thanks to Wiltshire Council as the principal funder amongst the local authorities upon whom we depend, and who host our organisation. Thanks are due equally to the other authorities and organisations that are represented on the Partnership Board, for their spirit of collaborative participation in our meetings and decision taking.

Sincere thanks to Linda Nunn and her team, including all volunteers, for their exceptional dedication, vision and ambition; their achievements speak volumes.

I wholeheartedly commend this 2019 - 2024 Management Plan for unanimous approval.

**Nicholas Gosse** - Chairman



# Overview

*This AONB Partnership Plan is the management plan required by Section 89 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. It sets out the policies of the partner local authorities for this AONB. They are Wiltshire and Dorset Councils; Hampshire and Somerset County Councils; and New Forest, Mendip and South Somerset District Councils.*

Following consultation with local communities, public bodies and agencies with an interest in the area, the Plan presents the special qualities and features of the AONB and determines what actions are required to ensure their conservation and enhancement. It explains the significance of this AONB and describes its outstanding landscapes, focussing on conserving and enhancing them, sustaining living and working landscapes, and the special landscapes to enjoy.



Cranborne Chase © Chris Downer

